

Forest Plan Components

Overall goal and orientation of the revised Forest Plan:

- Provides strategic vision → outcome-oriented
- Retains relevancy through time
- Adaptable to new science, tools, methods, needs, etc.

What should NOT be in the revised plan:

- How to do project level analysis
- Repeat existing policy or direction (to be referenced instead)
- “To do” list for future inventory and tasks

Forest Plan Components:

Desired Conditions: A desired condition (DC) is the plan component that states the “vision” for the unit, in whole or in part, describing the social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources is to be directed. Must focus on outcome conditions, not agency actions.

Guidelines: Guidelines provide information and guidance for project and activity decision making to help achieve plan desired conditions and objectives. The guideline’s intent must be followed, even if not the exact guideline itself.

Standards: Standards are constraints placed upon project and activity decision making, and are established (as appropriate) to help achieve the desired conditions and objectives of a plan, or to comply with applicable laws, regulations, Executive orders, and directives. If a standard is included in a plan, it should be because no other component will provide sufficient direction.

Objectives: Objectives are projections of measurable outcomes intended to maintain or reach desired conditions during the plan period. More than one objective that helps achieve a DC may be stated in the plan. Each DC need not have a corresponding objective, but each objective must relate to a DC. Must not imply a program of work or list of projects.

Management Approaches: Optional section in the Forest Plan. Management approaches offer suggested and/or intended management practices to help achieve desired conditions, but do not need to be followed during project planning. Examples of management approaches may include discussion about collaborating with other agencies on common areas of interest.